

Chapter 3. Vertebrate Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Assessments and Conservation Strategies

This chapter provides information on Wisconsin's Vertebrate Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Section 3.1) and the Ecological Landscapes (Section 3.2) and Natural Communities (Section 3.3) that they rely on.

3.1 Vertebrate Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Of the 556 wildlife species native to Wisconsin, 152 (27%) have been identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Forty-nine of these are currently listed as Threatened or Endangered at the state and/or federal level. Species of Greatest Conservation Need are divided into three groups based on their relative abundance in Wisconsin in comparison with the rest of their range. These divisions address the global role Wisconsin plays in the conservation of these species but leave options open for management.

Table 3-1. Vertebrate Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Species with a high relative abundance in WI compared with the rest of their range			
Birds <i>Common Name</i>	Fish <i>Common Name</i>	Herptiles <i>Common Name</i>	Mammals
American Bittern Canvasback Lesser Scaup Bald Eagle** Northern Harrier American Woodcock Black-billed Cuckoo Red-headed Woodpecker Willow Flycatcher Least Flycatcher Veery Brown Thrasher Blue-winged Warbler Golden-winged Warbler Connecticut Warbler Canada Warbler Field Sparrow Vesper Sparrow Henslow's Sparrow* Bobolink Eastern Meadowlark	Lake Sturgeon Kiyi Shortjaw Cisco Redside Dace Pugnose Shiner* Blue Sucker ^{SPT} * Greater Redhorse* Crystal Darter* Western Sand Darter	Blanding's Turtle* Butler's Garter Snake*	<i>No mammals in this group</i>
Species with a moderate to low relative abundance in WI compared with the rest of their range			
Birds <i>Common Name</i>	Fish <i>Common Name</i>	Herptiles <i>Common Name</i>	Mammals <i>Common Name</i>
Horned Grebe ^{SR} Red-necked Grebe* Great Egret* Yellow-crowned Night-Heron* Trumpeter Swan* American Black Duck Blue-winged Teal Redhead Osprey* Northern Goshawk Red-shouldered Hawk* Peregrine Falcon* Spruce Grouse* Greater Prairie-Chicken* Sharp-tailed Grouse Northern Bobwhite Yellow Rail* King Rail Whooping Crane American Golden Plover ^{SR} Solitary Sandpiper ^{SR} Upland Sandpiper	Paddlefish* Ozark Minnow* Gravel Chub* Redfin Shiner* Shoal Chub (Speckled Chub) * Lake Chubsucker Black Buffalo* River Redhorse* Black Redhorse* Slender Madtom* Banded Killifish Starhead Topminnow* Longear Sunfish* Least Darter Gilt Darter*	Four-toed Salamander Mudpuppy Blanchard's Cricket Frog* Boreal Chorus Frog Pickerel Frog Mink Frog Wood Turtle* Ornate Box Turtle* Midland Smooth Softshell Turtle Western Slender Glass Lizard* Northern Prairie Skink Prairie Racerunner Yellow-bellied Racer Prairie Ringneck Snake Black Rat Snake Bullsnake Queen Snake* Northern Ribbon Snake* Timber Rattlesnake Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake***	Water Shrew Silver-haired Bat Long-eared Bat Red Bat Hoary Bat Franklin's Ground Squirrel Northern Flying Squirrel Prairie Vole Woodland Vole Woodland Jumping Mouse Gray Wolf** American Marten*

Species with a moderate to low relative abundance in WI compared with the rest of their range *continued*

Whimbrel ^{SR} Hudsonian Godwit ^{SR} Dunlin ^{SR} Buff-breasted Sandpiper ^{SR} Short-billed Dowitcher ^{SR} Wilson's Phalarope Caspian Tern* Common Tern* Forster's Tern* Black Tern Yellow-billed Cuckoo Short-eared Owl Whip-poor-will Black-backed Woodpecker Olive-sided Flycatcher Acadian Flycatcher* Boreal Chickadee Wood Thrush Bell's Vireo* Black-throated Blue Warbler Cerulean Warbler* Prothonotary Warbler Worm-eating Warbler* Louisiana Waterthrush Kentucky Warbler* Hooded Warbler* Dickcissel Lark Sparrow Grasshopper Sparrow Le Conte's Sparrow Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow Western Meadowlark Rusty Blackbird ^{SR} Red Crossbill ^{SR}			
Species with a very low relative abundance in WI compared with the rest of their range			
Birds	Fish	Herptiles	Mammals
Common Name	Common Name	Common Name	Common Name
Snowy Egret*	American Eel ^{GT ST}	Western Worm Snake	White-tailed Jackrabbit
Piping Plover***	Skipjack Herring ST	Western Ribbon Snake*	Moose
Marbled Godwit ^{SR}	Goldeye*		
Barn Owl*	Pallid Shiner*		
Loggerhead Shrike*	Striped Shiner*		
Yellow-throated Warbler*	Bluntnose Darter*		
Kirtland's Warbler ^{SR}			

^{SR} - State Rank Not Available

ST - State Threat Not Available

^{SPT} - State Population Trend Not Available

^{GT} - Global Threat Not Available

* State Threatened/Endangered Listed

**Federal Threatened/Endangered Listed

***State & Federal Threatened/Endangered Listed